

RAF warns of killings

FRANKFURT, Dec 6, (AP): The terrorist Red Army Faction asserted in a letter delivered yesterday it had "executed" Deutsche Bank chairman Alfred Herrhausen and warned that no one could hide from its assaults.

In a letter received by a Western news agency in Bonn, the left-wing terrorist group described Herrhausen as Europe's most powerful economic figure and said he had been executed for that reason.

The message address described Herrhausen's plan for resolving the Third World debt crisis as "nothing other than an attempt to ensure long-term domination and plundering."

"There is no place in the world for the leaders of this system and there can be no protection against the attacks of revolutionary guerrilla units," the letter threatened.

The letter also demanded that jailed Red Army Faction members be housed together.

The letter was dated Saturday and stamped with the terrorist group's signature star and machine-gun symbol, and sent through the mail with a fictitious return address. The federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe said it considered it an authentic claim of responsibility from the Red Army Faction, which had been relatively dormant until the assassination of Herrhausen on Thursday.

Herrhausen's chauffeur and his escorted Mercedes was blown up by a remote-control activated bomb as he was being driven to work in Frankfurt through a residential street in Bad Homburg, where he lived.

First shot fired

Thatcher is no longer 'invulnerable'

LONDON, Dec 6, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has defeated an unprecedented challenge to her leadership of the Conservative Party, but was denied the complete triumph her supporters campaigned for, showing that party rebels have fired a significant first warning shot.

She received the votes of 314 of the 374 Tory Members of Parliament, while 33 supported challenger Sir Anthony Meyer, 24 abstained by deliberately spoiling their ballots, and three did not show up to vote. Even though 60 fellow Tories did not vote for her, Mrs Thatcher told reporters the result show "overwhelming support."



A happy Thatcher leaves 10 Downing Street after beating Sir Anthony. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thatcher appeared briefly outside her Downing Street residence to express satisfaction over the result.

Conservative Party chairman Kenneth Baker said she was now secure as leader until the next election, due by 1992.

"What the Conservative Party has decided today is that they want Margaret Thatcher to lead them into the 1990s and into the next general election," he told a television interviewer.

Until now, the 64-year-old prime minister has been re-elected unopposed every year since becoming Conservative leader in 1975.

UK no to public inquiry

LONDON, Dec 6, (AP): Transport Secretary Cecil Parkinson rejected calls yesterday for a public inquiry into the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, relatives of the victims said.

"We are extremely disappointed and very unhappy at the minister's response," said Jim Swire, spokesman for British families of Flight 103, who was one of nine relatives that met with Parkinson for two hours.

His 23-year-old daughter, Flora, was on the Boeing 747 when it blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland Dec 21 killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

Swire said the relatives want an inquiry covering security at airports because they feel the disaster should have been prevented.

But he said Parkinson had given the relatives "no hope whatsoever" that the government would ever hold an inquiry.

"He said the inquiry would not produce the required results and would not be in keeping with normal procedures," Swire said. "We were reassured that many things are being done to improve airport security although nothing specific was mentioned."

British Muslim leader cancels Iran trip out of fear

LONDON, Dec 6, (AP): A moderate Muslim leader in Britain said yesterday he has cancelled a planned tour of the Middle East to argue for the lifting of Iran's death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie.

Hesham El Essawy, chairman of the London-based Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, said Iranian authorities had refused to guarantee his safety and "I decided I can't go and put my life in danger."

El Essawy had planned a lecture tour in Iran, Egypt and Gulf states to coincide with the first anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's Feb 14 call on Muslims to kill Rushdie for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his book, "The Satanic Verses."

Iran's semi-official newspaper Keshan warned in a commentary last week that El Essawy could be hanged if he visited Iran.

El Essawy, 43, said he cancelled his entire trip because "I felt the Iranians would be sending somebody after me."

"I would try again tomorrow if they guarantee my safety, if I can go in and out of Iran," he said in an interview.

El Essawy said he disapproves of the content of "The Satanic Verses" and believes publishers Viking Penguin should fix labels on the book's cover making clear it is fiction.

But he said the call for Rushdie's death contradicts the teachings of the Holy Quran, the Islamic holy book.



Gonzalez confirmed as PM

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez took the oath of office for his third straight four-year term today and said he would make no changes in his cabinet. Spanish national radio said.

The Spanish Parliament approved by one vote Socialist Felipe Gonzalez for his third-straight term as prime minister.

The vote was 167 to 155, with six abstentions — the bare minimum majority needed for confirmation on the first ballot.

The radio, citing sources in the prime minister's office, said the decision to retain the cabinet came only hours after Gonzalez, 47, a former labour lawyer took the oath of office before King Juan Carlos at the monarch's Zarzuela Palace residence.

Juan Carlos and Gonzalez took part in the formal opening session of the bicameral Spanish Parliament.

Le Pen baits minister on TV

PARIS, Dec 6, (Reuters): French ultra rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen contributed to a major television debate on immigration yesterday with a new anti-Semitic jibe against a government minister, asking him if it was true he held Israeli nationality.

Le Pen first used a work that evoked World War Two Nazi raids, then asked a Jewish minister if he held dual French and Israeli nationality.

Leader of the National Front Party, he has previously described a Nazi concentration camp as a minor point of history and punned on a minister's name and Nazi gas ovens.

"All rather nauseous," said television anchorwoman Christine Ockrent after the latest jibe.

Le Pen, whose anti-Semitic comments have in the past boosted his popularity in France rather than diminished it, is celebrating his party's victory in a by-election on Sunday, giving the National Front its only seat in the 577-seat National Assembly.

Le Pen debated immigration with junior Planning Minister Lionel Stoleru.

Stoleru, quizzed on the number of illegal immigrants in France, said he had frequently organised police operations to arrest foreigners without papers.

Le Pen replied: "Why don't you say raids?" using the French word "rafle," which has clear implications of Nazi German raids on Jews during the occupation of France.

The right-winger then said: "Is it true that you have dual nationality ... we have the right to know who you are."

The television commentator interrupted, saying: "I think things should be clear because Mr Le Pen is using slightly coded language. Mr Stoleru, are you Jewish?"

The minister, visibly shocked, replied that being Jewish was a religion, not a nationality.

Le Pen, saying Stoleru was president of the Franco-Israeli Chamber of Commerce, said he had been told the minister was also Israeli, but accepted his statement that he was French.

A French television commentator said Le Pen's apparent baiting of the Jewish minister followed on from his previous anti-Semitic remarks.

The Socialist government, shocked by Sunday's National Front victory in the city of Dreux, has been forced to harden its stance on immigrants.

Prime Minister Michel Rocard condemned the National Front. "For me the National Front Party is political fundamentalism. It is truly incitement to hatred and violence," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Falkland talks resume: Argentine and British officials met in Uruguay yesterday to co-ordinate travel and trade issues as both sides move toward full diplomatic relations.

Relations were severed when the two nations fought the 1982 Falklands war over islands in the South Atlantic claimed by both sides. Argentine and British military officers met for the first time since the conflict.

The British delegation was led by David Tatham, director of the Falkland Islands Department of Britain's Foreign Ministry. Jose M. Otegui, who holds the same post in Argentina's Foreign Ministry, hosted the meeting in Argentina's embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay's capital. (AP)

Superpower summit venue: Prime Minister Charles Haughey told parliament yesterday that he had sent formal invitations to the United States and the Soviet Union offering Ireland as a site for a superpower summit.

The invitations followed a suggestion Haughey made to President Mikhail Gorbachev when the Soviet leader briefly visited Ireland earlier this year.

At this weekend's superpower summit in Malta, US President George Bush invited Gorbachev to Washington in June for the next round of US-Soviet talks. (AP)

Coulonces wins Chateaubriand prize: The Chateaubriand Literary prize went to Henri Coulonces yesterday for a novel about a young Parisian who settles in the Soviet Union to fight alongside his Russian comrades.

"La Lettre a Kirilenko" ("The Letter to Kirilenko"), published by Stock, was singled out for its historical descriptions and dialogue. The Chateaubriand prize, the last of the major literary awards given this season, goes to a piece of fiction which "contributes to the expression of French culture." (AP)



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Bush-Quayle differences played down

Malta summit enables US President to look ahead for budget savings

WASHINGTON, Dec 6, (AP): The White House, dealing with reaction from the Malta summit, attempted to quell criticism from conservatives yesterday and play down any differences between President George Bush and Vice-President Dan Quayle on the Soviet Union.

On another summit topic, the administration said the meeting enabled Bush to look ahead to possible budget savings two years from now as a result of likely arms reductions.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said that if an agreement is signed next year to slash long-range nuclear missiles, "I think that could have an impact, certainly" on the budget that would be submitted the following January.

Bush, on his first day back in the Oval Office, got a standing ovation from his cabinet, summoned to the White House for a report on his two days of talks with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Bush ignored questions from reporters about Quayle, who has offered a more guarded and sceptical post-summit assessment of the Soviets than Bush has.

Quayle, in an interview with the Washington Post newspaper published yesterday, called the Soviet Union "a totalitarian government and said I don't think they've changed much in foreign policy."

Bush, on the other hand, said after the summit, "We stand at the threshold of a brand new era of US-Soviet relations." He

also said Gorbachev's endorsement of reforms in Eastern Europe "absolutely mandates new thinking" by the West.

Explaining the difference, Bush's National Security Adviser, Brent Scowcroft, said, "we have an administration that is very closely aligned but I think it probably not possible for people to speak literally with one voice."

"And there may from time to time be difference of perspective but there's no difference in the substance of the policies we're pursuing."

For months, Quayle has voiced a harder line than Bush toward the Soviet Union. It has been suggested the vice-president was deliberately playing to the conservatives as part of a White House strategy to keep

their support.

But Quayle said yesterday that "there's no good guy, bad guy strategy" between himself and Bush.

Quayle, in an interview with knight-rider newspaper editors and reporters, tempered his comments to the post, saying he should have called the Soviet Union an authoritarian, rather than a totalitarian, state.

Quayle credited the Soviets and remarkable changes in economic reforms and their campaign of openness, known as glasnost. "Where there has been a lack of 'new thinking' on the part of the Soviet Union is in the area of foreign policy, and particularly in Central America," the vice-president said.



Bush is applauded as he enters the cabinet room for his first cabinet meeting since returning from Malta summit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Krenz resigns: Appeal for calm

E. German party congress on Friday

EAST BERLIN, Dec 6, (AP): President Egon Krenz resigned today and was replaced by Manfred Gerlach, a non-communist, Gerlach said on state television.

It is the first time a non-communist has held the nation's top government post.

Under previous communist governments, the Post of President had been largely ceremonial, but it was unclear whether the presidency would have a more important role in the current turmoil shaking the country.

The government later appealed to the nation's citizens for calm and

said there were indications that army installations had been stormed in a mounting reprisal against abuses of the former hard-line leadership of Erich Honecker.

"In the last few hours, there have been growing indication of stormings of facilities and installations of the National People's Army," the government said in a statement distributed by the official news agency ADN.

It did not specify where the assaults might have taken place or say how many people were involved. The government statement called for "calm and restraint."



Czech students scream as they encourage traffic passing the prime minister's offices to sound their horns in support of their strike against the government. (Reuters wirephoto)



Havel leaves the government house after meeting with Adamec. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Czech student arrives in a large cardboard box to attend a student demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

Forum to vet govt

Prague will have new cabinet

PRAGUE, Dec 6, (Reuters): Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec will announce a new government on Friday after approval by the country's pro-democracy movement, opposition leader Václav Havel said today.

Havel spoke at a news conference after emergency talks with Adamec and Communist Party leader Karel Urbánek aimed at resolving a three-week political crisis.

He said Adamec would show his list of ministers to the Civic Forum opposition movement before making it public.

The new government will replace one formed only last Sunday and rejected by the opposition because 16 of its 21 members were communists.

The communist leadership agreed to change the government after Civic

Forum threatened a general strike next Monday.

Havel did not say whether Civic Forum wanted to nominate ministers of its own rather than independent experts.

"But political sources said the opposition, which had earlier excluded Civic Forum ministers, had now switched tack."

They said workers' representative Peter Miller and Slovak Catholic activist Jan Čarnogurský were among those Civic Forum wanted Adamec to include.

Czechoslovak state radio said Havel and an opposition delegation handed Adamec a list of names this morning and had been asked to provide more.

The earlier cabinet formed by Adamec was regarded as unrepresentative of the balance of political forces following the Communist Party's surrender of its political monopoly last week.

Civic Forum has shown during a campaign of demonstrations and a previous general strike that it can mobilise the support of millions.

The rejected government contained only three independent ministers and one each from the Socialist and People's parties.

A sign that the Communist Party was preparing to back down came yesterday when a new Czech regional government was announced with a minority of communist ministers.

Civic Forum still has a deadline of December 10 for the resignation of hardline President Gustav Husak after he swears in the new government.

Sakharov calls for general strike

MOSCOW, Dec 6, (AP): The question of reducing the Communist Party's role as the "guiding force" of Soviet life is not on the agenda for the next Congress of people's deputies, but Vice President Anatoly I. Lukyanov said yesterday that deputies could raise the issue if they want to.

Meanwhile, a group of Soviet legislators led by human rights activist Andrei Sakharov has suggested calling for a general strike to protest the Communist Party's leading role.

However, the call for a one- or two-hour strike sometime the week before the next session of the Congress has not been publicized. Nor has it been promoted extensively by activists speaking at factories, as happened in Czechoslovakia with a similar symbolic strike to demand political reform.

The proposal for a Soviet strike was made last weekend by six deputies at a meeting of the inter-regional deputies group, an organization of several hundred legislators who favour faster and more radical reforms. The small group hopes to put the question of rescinding the Soviet constitution's article 6 on the agenda of the Congress when it meets Dec 12.

The section makes the party the "leading and guiding force of Soviet society." Eliminating it would reduce the party's grip on all spheres of life.

The Supreme Soviet working legislature, a branch of the Congress, voted in early November to place the question on the congressional agenda, but the proposal failed by a narrow margin.

Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland and Hungary all recently rescinded similar provisions in their constitutions granting special status to their communist parties.

Lukyanov told a news briefing that economics would dominate the debates when the Congress meets for the second time since it was created last December.

The Congress is the centrepiece of President Mikhail Gorbachev's political reforms. Its 2,250 deputies were elected last March in the country's first competitive elections in more than 70 years.

Lukyanov, asked if there was some procedure that would allow the issue to be raised, said, "the Congress is the highest body in the country and can take a decision on whatever it wants. They can do as they see fit."

He said the agenda, as approved by the Supreme Soviet, will include nine items, including the economy, changes in the electoral laws, and a report on work being done to combat organized crime.

"The economy is the major item," he said, and a full report on efforts to stabilize and improve the ailing economy will be delivered by Premier Nikolai Rykharov for debate.

Lukyanov said four days had been set aside for the economic debate.

Unlike the first session of the Congress, which began May 25 and was televised live every day for two weeks, the next session will only be shown in taped version in the evening.

Lukyanov said hundreds of thousands of workers stayed at home to watch the new Congress at work. "Some 20 per cent in Labour production was lost because of live coverage," he said.

Mitterrand meeting Gorbys Talks on Europe's future

KIEV, USSR, Dec 6, (AP): French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in the capital of the Soviet Ukraine today for a brief "working summit" with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev focusing on the future of Europe.

The official news agency Tass said in a brief dispatch that Gorbachev greeted Mitterrand at the Kiev airport.

Hours before Mitterrand's arrival, a top Soviet official expressed Kremlin opposition to letting East and West Germany decide themselves if they want to reunify. Mitterrand and the United States have said the decision belongs to the German people.

The German question "is the heritage of World War II, which affected the fates of all European countries and many others," said Andrei Grachev, deputy chief of the Communist Party Central Committee's international department. "The best and wisest resolution of the matter can be attained through the participation of several parties."

Grachev said Germany's future would be discussed during Mitterrand's six-hour visit to Kiev.

The meeting is the two leaders' fifth and was

proposed by Mitterrand so the Soviet president could report on the Dec 2-3 Malta superpower summit and hear Mitterrand express the European Economic Community's willingness to aid the movement toward greater democracy in Eastern Europe.

Mitterrand holds the revolving chairmanship of the EEC, the 12-nation West European trade block, and is striving for greater unity as well as solidarity with the wave of reform that in recent months has swept away old guard communist leaders in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Bulgaria.

Mitterrand's spokesman, Hubert Vedrine, called the Kiev encounter "an important step at an opportune moment."

Mitterrand also will visit the Pechorskaya monastery, a system of caves once occupied by monks recently returned to the Russian orthodox church by the Soviet government, and St Sophia's, an 11th-century jewel of Russian architecture.

Gorbachev and Mitterrand will hold a 40-minute joint news conference, and the French leader and his entourage then will fly back to Paris.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Party role an open question: Bulgaria's new communist leader indicated yesterday that the Communist Party's leading role is an open question as he initiates reforms.

"This will have to be decided upon by the Bulgarian people," Petar Mladenov told a news conference in Moscow. He was asked about a section of the Bulgarian constitution that gives communists the leading role in Bulgarian society.

"It's difficult for me to predict in what particular way this issue will be resolved, but I foresee changes in the constitution," Mladenov added. (AP)

Mazowiecki returns: Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who on Monday became the first non-communist government chief to take part in a Warsaw Pact summit, says he is glad the alliance condemned its 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia at the session.

Mazowiecki, a Solidarity activist and former political prisoner who became prime minister Aug 24, represented Poland at the meeting along with Communist President Wojciech Jaruzelski and non-communist Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski. (AP)

Berlin Wall goes on sale: Fragments of the Berlin Wall will soon be up for sale in Canadian gift stores at \$10 apiece.

"At the price we have them, they're basically an impulse item," said Kevin Talbot of Fai Trading Co. of Toronto. "I've heard of prices going as high as \$40 an ounce." (Reuters)

Solution to convent problem: Construction is expected to begin next year on an ecumenical centre to house nuns now living in a controversial convent outside the former Auschwitz concentration camp, leaders of the American Jewish Congress said today.

Robert K. Lifton, president of the New York-based organisation, and Henry Siegman, its executive director, said their discussions this week with Roman Catholic Primate Cardinal Jozef Glemp and the Krakow Archbishop, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, showed a firm commitment to complete the centre. (AP)

Dispute holding up CFE treaty: A dispute between Greece and Turkey may prevent Western allies from tabling a draft treaty at East-West talks on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) before next year, Nato diplomats and officials say.

Negotiators, already trying to cope with a delay in presenting the treaty and under pressure from governments to move faster, have so far failed to settle the row between the two Nato members over the Turkish port of Mersin. (Reuters)

Cold war ended: Waldheim: Austrian President Kurt Waldheim said yesterday the cold war finally ended when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush met in Malta.

At a news conference during an official visit to Tunisia, Waldheim said the summit meeting between the Soviet and US leaders "was very positive and the cold war has finally ended." (Reuters)

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Study recommends more residential areas near Capital

Priority to married couples, large families

THE Construction Research and Studies Team at the Amiri Diwan has called, in a study prepared recently, for the reconsideration of the Kuwait Housing Masterplan to provide new lands close to the capital.

The study stressed that citizens appreciated the plot-loan policy, and the flat-type housing units would gain acceptance among citizens if flat-type housing complexes were constructed in outstanding areas in the country and

were built not to exceed three floors. The study also called for the construction of integrated towns along the southern and northern coastal areas. It also recommended the application of the urgency in lieu of seniority to determine the priority of allocating houses.

Seniority

The study, which was submitted for consideration to the Higher Housing Council, stressed the need of priority

for married applicants and those with big families for the distribution of land-plots.

The study also highlighted the need to consider the families which receive housing allowances, or occupying dilapidated houses and low-income applicants for early distribution of houses. It said that when applicants share similar circumstances then the principle of seniority would be used to determine the scale of priority.

The study recommended that the plots distributed in locations close to the capital should have an area of 350 square metres and those distributed in distant locations should have an area of 500 square metres. The study also stressed the need to decide on a fixed area in order to avoid unfavourable effects on the contracting or service sector due to the large number of distributed land-plots.

The study called for the development

of the technical bureau at the Credit and Savings Bank in order to be better able to provide consultant, professional and legal services to citizens who build their own houses, underlining the need to encourage the involvement of the private sector, both the investment and contracting companies, in the participation of building houses for the citizens.

The study said that the flat-type housing units would meet with the

citizens' satisfaction if the related complexes were built in distinguished locations in the country and constructed not to exceed three floors high. Care however, should be taken to separate bedrooms from the living quarters and provide independent entrances to the housing units if this was technically possible.

The study also stressed the importance of insulating each housing unit against noise and providing special

quarters for live-in maids and a spacious play area for children.

The study also recommended the use of an easy monthly-installment policy and financial incentives to encourage applicants to accept living in the flat-type units, while offering them the chance to choose their neighbours.

The study also stressed the need to provide units with varying designs and cost and to offer citizens the chance to pick and choose what is best for them.

Ceasefire not panacea for economic ills

Kuwait ports lose out in trade: expert

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

UNDOUBTEDLY, the end of the Iran-Iraq war has had a great positive psychological impact on the local economic environment, a senior financial expert said.

Kuwait has lost the competitive edge in the volume of trade that it had enjoyed during the 1970s and early 1980 in relation to being the main outlet for Iraq's trade, according to Dr A. Al Ameen, head of the Financial Department at the Gulf Bank.

Speaking at the second economic meeting for 1989 held yesterday by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, for representatives of German companies operating here, Ameen explained that Kuwait's loss is attributed to the increasing importance of the Al Aqaba Port in Jordan and the resulting increase in the port's absorptive capacities — both in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Here, the official said: "It should be added that due to its proximity to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, Dubai has become the main trade outlet for Iran."

Elaborating on recent domestic developments and prospects for the near future, Ameen said that Kuwait's economic development over the last four decades has been associated with oil exports. Increasing oil revenues have been the major source of finance for development projects. Changes in oil demand in the world market have dictated the direction of economic activities in the domestic market, the official said.

Revitalisation

However, Ameen said that as far as the internal factors are concerned it should be emphasised that although investment opportunities are very limited, there are various policy measures that could be taken to revitalise the domestic economy.

The official added that it is to be lamented that there is an almost complete dependency on imports of consumer and capital goods. This is attributable to a very weak productive base of the non-oil sector. The contribution of industrial production (excluding oil refining) does not exceed five per cent, whereas that of agricul-

ture is less than one per cent, Ameen said. He added that dependence on expatriate workers accounts for more than 75 per cent of the labour force.

Elucidating, he said that due to the lack of other natural resources and a small population base with limited manpower resources, the absorptive capacity of the Kuwaiti economy has become very limited. This is usually reflected in both low rates of investment to GDP — about 14 per cent and to national savings about 25 per cent.

Translated, he said that this means that domestic investment absorbs no more than 25 per cent of total national savings, forcing policy-makers to look for investment opportunities abroad.

Ameen also talked about the four stages of development in the Kuwaiti economy during the fifties, sixties, seventies and eighties.

Specifically commenting he said: "I am inclined to think that the end of the war is not a panacea for all the problems which the Kuwaiti economy has suffered from."

Agreement to protect Islamic thought

UNDERSECRETARY of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammed Naser Al Hamdhan met in his office Tuesday with his Iraqi counterpart Dr Mohammed Sharif Ahmad. The Iraqi official said the meeting focused on ways to develop co-operation on Islamic affairs between Kuwait and Iraq and a joint agreement had been concluded to confront the dangerous currents that face Islamic thought.

Ahmad said that this visit to Kuwait is intended to provide him and the visiting delegation to study different activities of Kuwait Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and its famous projects like the Fiqh Encyclopedia and the monthly magazine Al Wai Al Islami.

Ahmad pointed out that Iraqi Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs carried out several important projects in the Islamic world like spreading Islamic heritage and Islamic books. He added that the Saddam University for Islamic Sciences began its first academic year this year. It admitted 100 Iraqi students and 50 Muslim students from different countries. Originally, 100 Muslim students were supposed to be admitted but some countries delayed sending their students. He hoped that university will complete the requirements of its teaching staff next year.

Specifically commenting he said: "I am inclined to think that the end of the war is not a panacea for all the problems which the Kuwaiti economy has suffered from."



Thai King's birthday celebrated

The Thai Ambassador to Kuwait Sukhum Rasmidatta Tuesday hosted a reception to celebrate the birthday of the King of Thailand. The reception, held at the Meridien Hotel, was attended by a large number of diplomats and Kuwaiti officials. Picture shows Rasmidatta welcoming Mrs Zahid Saad, wife of the Pakistani ambassador. Also seen in the picture are Zahid Saad and Mrs Rasmidatta.

KIMS established to train Kuwaiti physicians: Rifai

THE Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations was established to train Kuwaiti physicians, according to Dr Abdullah Al Rifai, secretary-general of the institute.

Giving a brief on training guidelines, the official said that basically such training is imparted in three stages: the first which lasts for one year is imparted as basic training after graduation, the second which lasts for three to five years is considered as specialised programmes related to family medicine, surgery, internal diseases and nuclear medicine — the last being the first of its kind in the Arab world.

Additionally, the institute extends other majors and programmes like anaesthesiology, intensive care and lab medicine which is the first training programme held outside the UK, including programmes leading to and qualifying for diplomas in pediatrics. The institute will also offer new programmes in gynaecology, orthopaedics, society medicine and skin diseases.

The third stage is advocated as the continuous education and follow up on the latest development in all branches of medicine. In this respect, the institute organises seminars and workshops to cover all medical specialisations — besides the information centre that is connected with the American Library which provides the latest publications on different branches of medicine.

Evaluation

Physicians attending the courses are provided evaluation cards at the institute and those who fail to obtain a certain level in their evaluation will have to repeat the training course, the official said.

Rifai said that there is no discrimination between Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti physicians in training — all are subject to the same programmes. Training centres of the institute are located in Mubarak Al Kaber and other hospitals of Kuwait.

The institute supervises specialised courses and exams to grant degrees instituted by the British and Irish Royal Colleges. The institute also organises the fellowship degree of the Royal College of Surgeons that are held in Kuwait.

The institute also organises programmes of lab

sciences. This is the first programme approved by the British Royal College to be held out of the UK and speaks volumes for the high level of labs of Kuwait hospitals, the official said.

Elucidating, he said that presently eight physicians are studying in this programme and the institute intends to admit a new group of physicians into the programme. The certificates and degrees of the institute are now well recognised and graduates do not face any problem in joining any faculty in Kuwait or other Arab countries.

The specialised programmes are open to all physicians in the GCC states and the Arab Peninsula and physicians from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Yemen are studying at the institute, Rifai said.

There are a total of 200 physicians being trained in different majors at the institute. The budget of the institute totals KD1.1 million — 81 per cent of which is spent on scientific activities and courses, while 18.7 per cent is spent on administrative and public services.

Rifai pointed out that trainees who want to join the institute should pass the basic training course and should then pass a personal interview. Admissions to each course are subject to certain condition such as available seats, adequate teaching staff and others.

Meanwhile, the assistant secretary-general of the institute, Dr Saleh Al Kandiri said that the programme of continuous education for physicians or 1990/1991 includes several courses and seminars — specially courses on using computers and statistics in medicine, researches at the health services department, a seminar on civil injuries, seminar on diseases of the respiratory system and many other seminars in different medical topics.

The specialised programme of surgery attracted 68 physicians and (four graduated), 35 physicians joined the internal diseases programme (three graduated), 27 physicians joined the pediatrics programme, 30 on family medicine programmes, 30 on radiation, eight in anaesthesiology programmes, 14 in nuclear medicine and 16 in the labs programme, Kandiri quoted statistics as indicating.

Handicapped to receive istimaras

RELIABLE sources at the General Traffic Administration (GTA) said that it now allows all handicapped persons to get learner's licence (istimara) and to exchange the driving licence they carry from other countries without any restriction except that they must bring with them a medical certificate from the club for the Handicapped.

The decision aims at providing more facilities for movement of citizens and expatriates. The GTA is studying the modalities of providing other categories of people who urgently need driving licence.



A. Izzuddeen

Muslim scholar to arrive

A. IZZUDDEN, a member of the Kerala Wakf Board is due to arrive in Kuwait tomorrow on a brief visit.

Izzuddeen, who is also the general convener of south Kerala's Jamaat-e-Islami and the Trivandrum Muslim Association, will meet with Muslim scholars and officials.

Organisers of his visit to Kuwait have arranged a reception for him at the airport. He arrives on Air-India's direct flight from Trivandrum tomorrow.

Services in 260 cities to be upgraded

RIYADH, Dec 6, (Kuna): A series of well-organised plans are being worked out to draft an integrated Arab future policy based on scientific bases for 260 cities in member states of the Riyadh-based Arab Institute for Development of Arab towns, which next year enters into a decade of fine services for the development of Arab metropolises and provision of municipal and public utility services in the Arab world.

This was disclosed here yesterday by Dr Mohammad Abdullah Al Hammad, the institute's director-general, who affirmed that the institute has managed to fill remarkably the vacuum in urban and municipal fields, thanks to the great facilities provided by government of custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz.

He said the institute has organised many symposiums, conferences, lectures and training courses and conducted several studies and researches in town-planning and municipal services as well as facilitated translation of researches, articles and studies concerning municipal and urban aspects.

The Saudi government has undertaken the responsibility to ensure adequate spendings of the institute, a scientific and technical affiliate of the Arab Town Organisation, ever since the establishment of the institute in 1980.

Urdu lecture

TWO Muslim scholars Hakim Mahmood Shahrani from Pakistan and Mohammed Youssef Islahi from India will give a lecture for women in Urdu. The lecture will be held at Dar Al Quran Al Karim in Farwaniya, today, (Thursday) after Asr prayers.

Campers warned not to approach security areas

THE commander of the Wafra Area Col Attal Al Farhan has called on all citizens and residents in the area to stay away from oil installations during their camping activities.

He warned against the setting up of tents close to high-security areas, pointing out that failing to abide by these instructions would entail security intervention and that their tents would be removed on grounds of security considerations.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the Wafra

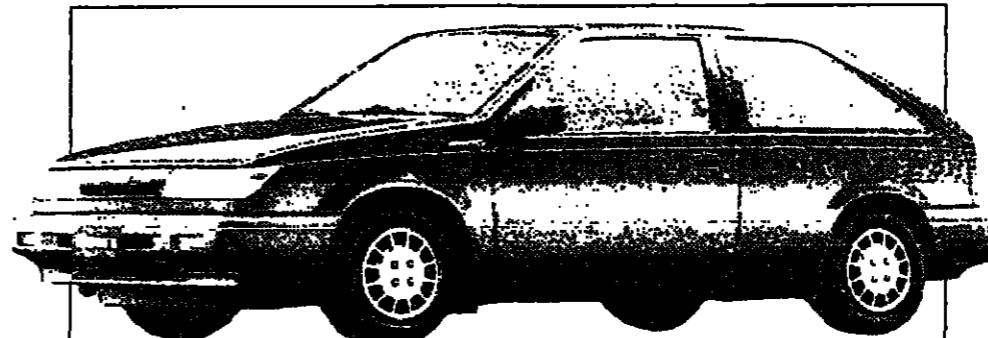
police headquarters would deploy security patrols around camping sites and provide law-enforcement officers to maintain peace and order in the area. He called on citizens and residents to fully comply with the regulations to avoid involvement in unnecessary inconvenient situations.

He pointed out that traffic accidents tend to increase in the area around roundabouts and in certain internal streets and outside farm entrances, due to poor illumination at night.

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Australia honours Norman

MELBOURNE, Dec 6, (Reuters): Greg Norman, a golfer as famous for the major events he has failed to win as for his victory in the 1986 British Open, has been named Australia's greatest sportsman of the 1980s.

Norman received his award, decided by members of Australia's Sporting Hall of Fame, last night after his induction to the hall earlier in the day.

Norman, currently rated the world's number one golfer, was chosen ahead of sportsmen such as former world motorcycling champion Wayne Gardner, marathon runner Rob de Castella, Australian cricket captain Allan Border and boxer Jeff Fenech.

"I'm just very lucky to have been successful in my chosen profession," Norman, nicknamed the Great White Shark, said in his acceptance speech.

Norman led all four majors going into the final round in 1986 but only won the British Open. He was beaten in this year's British Open by American Mark Calcavecchia after a play-off.

Border was named male athlete of 1989 with Walker Kerry Saxby taking the female award. The Australian cricketers, who beat England 4-0 in the Ashes series, were the team of 1989.

Canadian TV set to buy Games rights

TORONTO, Dec 6, (Reuters): A Canadian television network is close to signing a deal to cover the 1991 Pan American Games in Havana, allowing the Cubans to sidestep a US embargo, sources close to the organizers said yesterday.

CTV, Canada's biggest commercial television network, plans to recoup some of the cost by selling coverage to the ABC network in the United States, said the sources who asked not to be identified.

The development came a day after ABC filed a suit against the US Treasury Department for denying the network a licence to televise the Games.

ABC had proposed paying a fee of about \$6.5 million to Cuba for rights to cover the Games, but the Treasury Department blocked the plan on the grounds that it would violate a 27-year US embargo on trade with Cuba.

Canadian companies are allowed to trade freely with Cuba. CTV sports director Gary Maurya declined to confirm the reports, but said: "We are talking to the Games organizers."

"We are exploring buying the Pan American Games as we would explore any other property."

Leonard changes boxing style

Duran ready for fight

LAS VEGAS, Dec 6, (Reuters): Sugar Ray Leonard has been refuelled for their fight tomorrow, according to their handlers.

Duran apparently wants to reserve as much fuel as possible. Yesterday he cancelled his second workout in three days and has worked only twice in the last five days.

But Duran, 38, said he weighed 158 pounds (71.6 kg) yesterday morning and his camp says he is ready for the scheduled 12-round fight which has been dubbed "Uno mas" — a play on Duran's famous "No mas" (no more) which the Panamanian uttered when he quit in the eighth round against Leonard in 1980.

Leonard, 33, who is putting up his World Boxing Council super middleweight title tomorrow in

the outdoor ring at the Mirage Hotel, has had his boxing style completely overhauled since the five-time world champion fought Thomas Hearns to a draw last June.

Leonard, who said on Monday he weighed about 160 pounds (72.5 kg) has said he was not "into" the Hearns fight, which many ringiders believe he lost.

"Ray Leonard is more focused now," Pepe Correa, his trainer said at a news conference yesterday.

"Jose Pepe Correa took control for this fight... believe me, I changed the whole approach to boxing... I broke it down... believe me I was tough with our man."

Correa refused to describe how he retooled Leonard, who was knocked down by Hearns

last June and who has said he generally was disappointed with his performance, despite the draw.

Leonard, 35-1-1, repeated his growing weariness with the work needed to prepare for and promote a fight and again said this may be his last fight.

That theme was picked up by Mike Acri, Duran's promoter, who tried to turn it against Leonard, who will earn a guaranteed \$12.6 million for the fight, plus a percentage of the paid-per-view and theatre tickets.

Acri's shots at Leonard probably were primed by Correa's claim that there is "no man on the face of the earth who can outbox Ray Leonard when he's ready, and this man is ready."

Acri said that Leonard's talk of retirement shows that "the fire is not there... the bottom line to

this fight is fire, is desire..."

"He thinks Roberto is easy and old and he (Leonard) is going to run like he did against (Marvin) Hagler and box and move and slip, tie him up..." Acri said.

"He can't run for 12 rounds. He can't exchange punches for five or six rounds. He's gonna have to fight," Acri said. "All you people out there who are backing Ray Leonard — you're going to blow some dollars."

Acri said the 85-7 Duran, who will earn \$7.6 million for this fight though his career was nearly over three years ago "has what I call the fire."

"He has the motivation. He wants to kick Ray Leonard's ass."

Duran has been criticised for spending too much time partying, but one particular night on the town three years ago may have been the best thing that ever happened to him.

That was the night in 1986 at a New York salsa club when he met Carlos Hibbard, a former unlicensed New York City cab driver whom Duran says is responsible for resuscitating his boxing career.

The next best thing that may have befallen Duran was the Reagan administration's amnesty for illegal aliens.

That allowed Hibbard to surface without fear of being shipped back to his native Panama after entering the United States illegally.

Duran credits Hibbard, 41, with taking the disgraced former three-time world champion from the ignominy of fighting at the bottom of undercards to his \$7.6 million payday.

The title and, to a certain extent, the money is insignificant next to Duran's chance to redeem himself.

Hibbard is a combination of spiritual leader, trainer and nutritionist and, according to Duran, is "100 per cent responsible" for turning his career around.

Roseate Tern sold for \$1.9 m

NEWMARKET, England, Dec 6, (Reuters): Yorkshire Oaks horse race winner Roseate Tern, third in the English Oaks and St Leger, was sold yesterday for 1.1 million guineas (\$1.9 million).

The filly, owned by Lord Carnarvon, was bought at the December Sales by American publisher Peter Brant, who also owned the talented mare Triptych.

Roseate Tern is the second highest priced filly sold at public auction in Europe.



Bjorn Waldegard (right) and co-driver Fred Gallagher celebrate at the finish in Dubai.



Second time Mohammed bin Sulayem (right) and Ronan Morgan.

ME rallying gets a boost

DUBAI: After a season of setbacks in the Middle East, the Emirates International Rally has helped to restore the credibility of the sport in the region.

That point has been emphasised by Costas Glossotis, the highly-experienced Greek rally official who was clerk of the course for the Winston-sponsored event in the UAE at the weekend.

"It has been a disappointing year in Middle East rallying, but the success of the Emirates International shows what the organising clubs in this part of the world are capable of," said Glossotis.

Fisa abandoned the 1989 Middle East Championship following the cancellation of three rounds in Jordan, Oman, and Lebanon.

But motor sport's world governing body has since confirmed that next year's championship will go ahead, with rounds in Qatar (February 15-16), Jordan (May 16-18), Lebanon (October 12-14), Oman (October 24-26), Kuwait (November 22-23) and the UAE.

Qatar Motor Sports Club's David Evans was in the UAE last weekend and described the Emirates International as "a very successful rally which has done well to restore the international credibility of

Middle East rallying." He will now follow the example set by the Al Nasr Motor Sports Club and run the Qatar Rally entirely in daylight.

With Bjorn Waldegard driving brilliantly to end Mohammed bin Sulayem's four-year unbeaten run in his home event, the Emirates International Rally also emphasised that a new crop of Arab drivers are emerging.

None are more talented than 19-year-old Qatar's Nasser Al Attiya, who has shown great potential in his first four events and was lying sixth in the UAE when engine failure ended his challenge on the penultimate stage.

Following the misfortunes of Saeed Al Hajri and Abbas Al Mosawi, Fahad bin Mubarak gave further evidence of the strength of rallying in Qatar by claiming fifth place in a Winston Toyota Celica Turbo on his first international appearance.

Among the challengers from other Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Al Malki finished 11th in his Mitsubishi Pajero. Now established as a regular competitor around the region, he is among those already looking forward eagerly to the 1989 season.

Aussies launch rally to rival Paris-Dakar event

200 entries expected

SYDNEY, Dec 6, (Reuters): The Australian Safari Motor Rally, 6,500 kms (4,000 miles) of outback driving from Sydney to Darwin, will rival the famous Paris-Dakar event within a few years, organisers said today.

The safari recently received endorsement by motor sport's ruling body Fisa which triggered a wave of interest by overseas teams and drivers. Tom Snooks, Australia Safari's executive director said, launching the rally.

"Africa has become a bit 'old hat'. People are looking for new horizons." Snooks said by telephone. "By running under international regulations we are now in line with the rest of the world."

"This is one of the first steps we have taken to develop the safari

as the number one rally in the world by 1992 — which means surpassing the great Paris-Dakar event."

More than 20 cars-crews are expected from Japan this year together with 50 motorcycle riders. The Soviet Union's Avtoexport have expressed interest, as have Kawasaki France's motorcycle team.

About 200 entries are expected for the 1990 rally which starts on August 18 in Sydney and finishes nine days later in Darwin, capital of the northern territory.

The race, run almost entirely on unsealed roads on private property, will go through South Australia and then north past Ayers Rock, in Australia's Red Centre, to Darwin.

Berlin could host meeting

LONDON, Dec 6, (AP): A unified Berlin could host the 1995 World Track and Field Championships but must beat out competition from both inside Germany and around the world, the head of the International Track Federation said yesterday.

Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, also confirmed that next year's Berlin marathon would be a run on a course linking the Eastern and Western parts of the recently reunited city.

In a statement issued by the IAAF's headquarters, Nebiolo said he had been asked repeatedly about a Berlin candidacy for the 1995 championships since recent political developments in East Germany led to an opening of borders with the West.

Mansell drives Ferrari to fastest time in tests

ESTORIL, Portugal, Dec 6, (Reuters): Britain's Nigel Mansell drove his Ferrari to the fastest time in tyre testing on a rain swept Estoril track yesterday. But his best lap of one minute 18.90 seconds was half a second slower than his best in wet conditions on Monday, when Brazilian Mauricio Gugelmin crashed in a March.

"I only got to run a couple of sets of tyres in the few dry laps of the day, but even then we had to contend with a wet patch in the quickest corner on the track which was costing around a second a lap," Mansell said.

Mansell's best time was three seconds off the pace set at this year's Portuguese Grand Prix on the same track two months ago.

His new team-mate, world champion Alain Prost, concentrating on engine testing for Ferrari, was noticeably more relaxed with his new team.

"The atmosphere is a lot better than I've been used to the past few months. I'm enjoying my driving again even if the weather could be a lot better," the former McLaren driver said.

French newcomer Eric Bernard set an impressive second fastest time of 1:19.17 in the Lola Lamborghini.

Austria's Gerhard Berger was third fastest with 1:19.23 in the McLaren Honda which he spun while on a quicker lap.

Ex-world champion Nelson Piquet has been concentrating on the Benetton Ford fitted with a new version of their "active" suspension system — a computer controlled self-leveling suspension system designed to keep the car stable under all conditions.



Prost waits in the cockpit of his Ferrari before the test session. (Reuters wirephoto)

Real pay tribute to Martin

MADRID, Dec 6, (Reuters): Real Madrid basketball team yesterday paid tribute to their star pivot Fernando Martin as they beat Paok Salonika of Greece 92-71 in a European Cup Winners' Cup match.

Martin died in a car crash on Madrid's Ringroad Motorway on Sunday.

His number 10 shirt, which team-mates have said will not be worn by another player, was laid last night on his empty court-side chair where Salonika players placed floral tributes.

At the end of the emotional match, dedicated by Real players to Martin's memory, the crowd chanted their late hero's name. Martin became the only Spaniard to play in the US National Basketball Association (NBA) when he spent a year with the Portland Trail Blazers in 1986.



